

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT Y2K PREPAREDNESS

Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem: Committee concluded hearings on state and local government preparedness for the year 2000 computer problem, after receiving testimony from Joel C. Willemssen, Director, Civil Agencies Information System, Accounting and Information Management Division, General Accounting Office; Mike Benzene, State of Missouri, Jefferson City, on behalf of NASIRE; Indiana State Auditor Connie Kay Nass,

and Patrick R. Ralston, Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, both of Indianapolis; Brian O'Neil, City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the National League of Cities; Suzanne J. Peck, Government of the District of Columbia; Mayor James E. Trobaugh, Kokomo, Indiana, on behalf of the Conference of Mayors; James O'Brien, City of West Hartford, Connecticut; Randy Johnson, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on behalf of the National Association of Counties; and Robert D. Browder, Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff, and Miller, Fort Worth, Texas.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 2527–2541, and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 249, 251, were introduced. Pages H5686–87

Reports Filed: One report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 250, providing for consideration of H.R. 434, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the method of payment of taxes on distilled spirits (H. Rept. 106–236). Page H5686

Journal Vote: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Wednesday, July 14, by a yeas and nays vote of 346 yeas to 53 nays with 2 voting "present", Roll No. 297. Page H5580

Religious Liberty Protection Act: The House passed H.R. 1691, to protect religious liberty by a yeas and nays vote of 306 yeas to 118 nays, Roll No. 299. Pages H5584–H5608

Agreed to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order by the rule. Page H5585

Rejected the Nadler amendment in the nature of a substitute that sought to permit persons to file claims related to the free exercise of religion except for cases dealing with housing and employment discrimination. For these cases, small landlords, religious institutions and small business owners may file claims, by a yeas and nays vote of 190 yeas to 234 nays, Roll No. 298. Pages H5596–H5608

H. Res. 245, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to earlier by voice vote. Pages H5580–84

Treasury, Postal, and General Government Appropriations: The House passed H.R. 2490, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the

United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 by a yeas and nays vote of 210 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 305. Pages H5612–77

Rejected the Hoyer motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations. Page H5676

Agreed to:

The Velazquez amendment that provides \$3 million for grants to investigate money laundering and related financial crimes; Pages H5622–25

The Lowey amendment to the Smith of New Jersey amendment that strikes the reference to moral convictions as a basis for objection to provisions regarding contraceptive coverage (agreed to by a recorded vote of 217 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 303); Pages H5655–61

The Smith of New Jersey amendment, as amended, that specifies that no provisions regarding contraceptive coverage will apply to any existing or future plan if the Carrier objects on the basis of religious beliefs; Pages H5641–62

The Maloney of New York amendment that specifies that no funds may be used to enforce any prohibition on women breast-feeding their children in Federal buildings or on Federal property; and Pages H5672–74

The Andrews amendment that prohibits the import of any children's sleepwear without the labels required by the flammability standards issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Pages H5674–75

Rejected:

The DeLauro amendment that sought to strike the section that prohibit funds for abortions or administrative expenses in connection with any FEHB plan

that provides benefits or coverage for abortion (rejected by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 230 noes, Roll No. 301);

Pages H5635–42

The Sessions amendment that sought to strike the section that increases the annual salary for the President of the United States to \$400,000 (rejected by a recorded vote of 82 ayes to 334 noes, Roll No. 302); and

Pages H5647–51, H5660–61

The Sanders amendment that sought to prohibit loans or credit in excess of \$1 billion to a foreign entity or government through the exchange stabilization fund unless approved by Congress (rejected by a recorded vote of 192 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 304).

Pages H5664–72, H5675–76

Withdrawn:

The Weldon of Florida amendment was offered, but subsequently withdrawn, that sought to have health benefit plans offer enrollees the option to choosing dental, optometry, infertility, or prescription drug benefits in lieu of contraceptive coverage;

Pages H5646–47

The Andrews amendment was offered, but subsequently withdrawn, that sought to require that the Secretary of the Treasury release frozen assets of a foreign state to satisfy all pending court judgments;

Page H5662

The Davis of Illinois amendment was offered, but subsequently withdrawn, that requires an annual study on the conduct of strip searches by the U.S. Customs Service that includes data on the ethnicity, gender, nationality, and race of the individuals subject to such searches; and

Pages H5662–63

The Davis of Illinois amendment was offered, but subsequently withdrawn, that sought to prohibit strip searches by the Customs Service unless the employee who conducts the search is of the same gender as the individual being searched.

Page H5672

H. Res. 246, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to earlier by voice vote. Earlier, agreed to order the previous question by a yea and nay vote of 276 yeas to 147 nays, Roll No. 300.

Pages H5608–11

DOD Conference Appointment: The Chair appointed Representatives Thomas, Boehner, and Hoyer as additional conferees from the Committee on House Administration for consideration of section 1303 of the Senate bill, S. 1059, and modifications committed to conference.

Page H5677

Senate Bill Returned: Pursuant to H. Res. 249, the House agreed to return S. 254, to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by rehabilitation of juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, to the Senate.

Pages H5677–80

American Embassy Security Act: The House agreed to H. Res. 247, the rule providing for consid-

eration of H.R. 2415, to enhance security of United States missions and personnel overseas, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal year 2000.

Pages H5680–84

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate appears on page H5575.

Referral: S. 604 was referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

Page H5685

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea and nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H5580, H5607, H5608, H5611, H5641–42, H5660–61, H5661, H5675–76, and H5676–77. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

Committee Meetings

COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNDING REVITALIZATION ACT; FOREST SERVICE LEGISLATIVE ALTERNATIVE

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry held a hearing on the following: H.R. 2389, County Schools Funding Revitalization Act of 1999; and a legislative alternative submitted to Congress by the U.S. Forest Service. Testimony was heard from Representatives Deal of Georgia, Boyd, Peterson of Pennsylvania and Turner; James R. Lyons, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; and public witnesses.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development approved for full Committee action the Energy and Water Development appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

ELECTRICITY COMPETITION

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Power continued hearings on Electricity Competition, focusing on Innovation and the Future. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEDICAL INFORMATION PROTECTION AND RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on H.R. 2470, Medical Information Protection and Research Enhancement Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.